

## House Republican Press Release

June 3, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Boucher Hails Final Passage of Cell Phone Ban**



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143<sup>rd</sup>, today hailed final passage of legislation banning the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving unless there is an emergency. Rep. Boucher previously voted for the ban when it passed the state House of Representatives.

Rep. Boucher said, "People in my district have consistently and overwhelmingly supported the idea of prohibiting the use of hand held cell phones while driving. We have all seen too many instances of drivers with phones up to their ears and not paying attention to traffic."

She added, "I am happy to see this legislation now on its way to the governor's desk, and I hope it takes effect on October 1 as expected."

If Gov. M. Jodi Rell signs the bill, Connecticut would become the third state after New York and New Jersey to prohibit drivers from using hand-held phones.

The legislation will prohibit drivers from using hand-held phones unless they are communicating an emergency situation to an emergency response operator, hospital, physician's office or health clinic, ambulance company, or fire or police department.

Except in the event of an emergency, individuals operating under learners' permits or with licenses issued subject to requirements applicable to 16- and 17-year old drivers are prohibited from using cell phones with, or without, hands-free devices. School bus drivers may use their mobile phones to call school officials in the event of an emergency.

Rep. Boucher noted that local voters have responded to legislative surveys in recent years by large majorities saying that hand-held cell phones should be banned while driving.

Rep. Boucher serves the 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District of Wilton and Norwalk in the state House of Representatives.